

Isabella Melians

Age: 16, Grade: 11

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Category: Poetry

finding pork rinds in sneaker soles

On December 17, sometime between
 eating goldfish and Haagen Dazs,
I found my identity nestled within the car seat
of my mom's silver
 convertible

A breakdown of composition:

Jamaican mangoes eaten with a spoon/ ancestry tests/ air hockey on a cruise
ship/ elephant statues/ rejected Communion/ eyeliner in Walgreens/ dusty
violins/ clumsy first love/ maximalist bedrooms/ kitten teeth/ heirloom spoon
rings/ falling from avocado trees

to stand within a family gathering
like a raven,
 entranced by shiny necklaces and beady earrings
 and gossip

Hereditary [*her-e-di-tary*] translates to bewilderment
and broken slot machines
 (we can't quite find our place)